IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 7, 11, and 14 as shown below.

Please CANCEL claims 8 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer, as shown below.

1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A planning arrangement for forming a communications network, the communications network comprising a plurality of layers, the arrangement comprising a set of at least two modules, each module of the set representing a technical solution usable in a layer of the communications network, the arrangement configured to:

allow selection of at least two modules of the set based on desired technical solutions of the communications network to be formed; and

arrange said at least two modules of the set on top of each other as a layered structure for modeling the communications network to be formed;

wherein a given module of the layered structure is configured to offer resources to an adjacent module above the given module and/or to use resources of an adjacent module below the given module; and

wherein the arrangement is further configured to select alternative modules representing different technical solutions; model the communications network based on

the alternative modules; and compare the different technical solutions for forming the communications network based on the modeling.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 7, wherein the technical solution of at least one module of the set is configured to be usable in more than one layer of the layered structure.

10. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 7, wherein routing of the layered structure is configured to be performed in one module at a time such that routes in the adjacent module above are found in the given module.

11. (Currently Amended) A planning method for forming a communications network, the method comprising:

forming a set of at least two modules, each module of the set representing a technical solution usable in a layer of the communications network;

selecting at least two modules of the set based on desired technical solutions of the communications network to be formed; and

arranging said at least two modules of the set on top of each other as a layered structure for modeling the communications network to be formed;

wherein a given module of the layered structure is configured to offer resources to an adjacent module above the given module and/or to use resources of an adjacent module below the given module; and

wherein the method further comprises selecting alternative modules representing different technical solutions; modeling the communications network based on the alternative modules; and comparing the different technical solutions for forming the communications network based on the modeling.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

routing the layered structure in one module at a time such that routes in the adjacent module above are found in the given module.

14. (Currently Amended) A planning module for forming a communications network, wherein the module is a part of a set of at least two modules, the module represents a particular technical solution usable in the communications network, the set comprising a plurality of alternative modules representing different technical solutions for modeling the communications network and comparing the different technical solutions for forming the communications network, and the module is arranged on top of and/or below another module to form a layered structure for modeling the

communications network to be formed, wherein the module is configured to offer resources to an adjacent module above the given module and/or to use resources of an adjacent module below the given module.

15. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 14, wherein the technical solution represented by the module comprises one of cellular, Asynchronous Transfer Mode, Plesiochronous Digital Hierarchy, Synchronous Digital Hierarchy, Internet Protocol, Wavelength-Division Multiplexing, and physical conduits.

16. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 15, wherein the module comprises one of conduit module, line system module, Virtual Container-4 module, 2Mbit/s module, Asynchronous Transfer Mode link module, Asynchronous Transfer Mode virtual path module, Asynchronous Transfer Mode virtual circuit module, Internet Protocol module, Wavelength-Division Multiplexing module, and cellular module.

17. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 14, further comprising:

nodes and

links between the nodes.

18. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 17, wherein types of the nodes and links are specific for the layer.

19. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 17, configured to add a node and/or link to an adjacent module above the given module and/or to an adjacent module below the given module.

20. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 14, comprising module-specific calculation and routing methods.